THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE
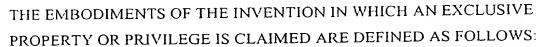PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1.   A computer system for generating custom versions of a master document in
      accordance with user purpose parameters, said system comprising:

5   (a) a datafile including a data structure specifying said master document;

           (b) a document class library for providing general document class definitions;

           (c) a parser for creating executable instances of said document-class data
                structures from said datafile;

           (d) a user input interface for inputting said purpose parameters; and

10   (e) a selection engine for generating said custom versions of said document from
                said instances of said document class library by utilizing current values of said
                purpose parameters.

2.   A computer system as defined in claim 1, said document including a plurality of
15   elements and said data structure defining relationships between said elements and
      variations thereof.

3.   A computer system as defined in claim 1, said instances including a plurality of
      elements and variations each arranged in a hierarchy of predetermined
20   relationships.

4.   A computer system as defined in claim 3, each element including a resolver for
      selecting from its variations and each variation including a resolver for expanding
      said variation into its component document objects.

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5.   A computer system as defined in claim 3, said elements being the components of
      said document structure.

6.   A computer system as defined in claim 1, said instances each including linguistic
30   information for providing automated grammatical and stylistic correction of said
      customized documents.

7.   A computer readable memory device encoded with a data structure for generating
      custom versions of a master document, the data structure having a plurality of

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general class objects for describing elements and variations providing, structure and content of said master document.

8. A device as defined in claim 6, said data structure including:

    (a) a first data block for identifying user purpose parameters for selecting versions of said master document;

    (b) a toplevel object for identifying a document-class instance; and

    (c) a program structure for specifying the form and content of said custom versions of said master document.

9. A device as defined in claim 7, said data structure including an external object for describing instances of an external class for defining links to other master documents to thereby to create a network of systems for generating custom documents.

10. A device as defined in claim 8, said links being hypertext links.

11. A method for generating custom versions of a master document implemented in a computer system and in accordance with user purpose parameters, said method comprising the steps of:

    (a) specifying said master document having a datafile and including a data structure;

    (b) providing a document class library having general document class definitions;

    (c) parsing said datafile for creating executable instances of said document-class data structures;

    (d) a user input interface for inputting said purpose parameters; and using current values of said purpose parameters to generate custom versions of said document from said instances of said document class library.

12. A method as defined in claim 11, including executing said instance for selecting from variations of an element and expanding each variation into its component document objects, wherein each said instances includes a plurality of elements and variations each arranged in a hierarchy of predetermined relationships.

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